

House Resolution No. 1518

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who have admirably answered the call to national service through the venues afforded them in the various branches of the United States military; and

Whereas, the Reverend Thomas A. Kirchhoefer is a Roman Catholic priest who has attained distinction as an associate pastor at St. Blaise Parish in Maryland Heights, Missouri; and

Whereas, as the 2003 Lenten season rapidly draws to a close, Father Thomas Kirchhoefer is preparing to leave his current post in order to take up the duties and responsibilities associated with service as a United States Army chaplain; and

Whereas, the day after Easter, Father Thomas Kirchhoefer will report for training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, as the first step in fulfilling his long-considered goal of military chaplaincy; and

Whereas, while a student at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Shrewsbury, Florissant native Thomas Kirchhoefer participated in an Army Reserve chaplain preparation program which took him to New Jersey, Louisiana, and Hawaii over the course of two summers; and

Whereas, Father Thomas Kirchhoefer will enter active duty with the rank of Captain as one of nearly fourteen hundred Army chaplains who provide religious and counseling services to their soldier constituents and families; and

Whereas, with approximately one-fourth of its soldiers coming from Catholic backgrounds, the Army has attracted only about one-third of the Catholic chaplains that it needs to meet its manning goals; and

Whereas, although he will no longer be part of a Parish, Captain Thomas Kirchhoefer will find as a chaplain that he will be the spiritual leader for 3,500 Catholic "parishioners" in the Army:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to salute Father Thomas Kirchhoefer for his patriotic decision to enter military service as an Army Chaplain and to convey to him this legislative body's most heartfelt commendation of his studies and experiences as a Roman Catholic priest who is devoted to his spiritual calling and dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of others; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Reverend Thomas A. Kirchhoefer of St. Blaise Parish in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Albert Liese
District No. 79

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1518, adopted April 8, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker